

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2008

SOURCE SCDB-45366 (Encl 5)

NOV 25 1951

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Count STRACHWITZ, Hyacinth

1. Reliable information from the files of OSO-CIA, dated 15 February, 1950, indicates that the subject of your request, Count Hyacinth von STRACHWITZ, was a Lt. General in the German army who specialized in tank warfare. He participated in both world wars and holds the Knights Order of the Iron Cross with Oakleaves, Swords and Diamonds.
2. After the departure of the occupation troops from Syria in 1946, Count STRACHWITZ set up a German military mission at the request of the Syrian government to advise and assist the defense ministry of that government in the development of their armed forces. This mission consisted of a miscellaneous group of former members of the German Africa Corps, SS men, German Prisoners of War from Italy, officers from Germany, etc.
3. This mission did not achieve its anticipated success because it became involved in domestic political conflicts in Syria. The SS faction of the mission, headed by Walter RAUFF, participated in the coup d'etat of Ursini al-Zaim. The mission was discontinued at this time and most of its members emigrated to South America.
4. Confirmed information, dated 29 April 1949, states that after the termination of the military mission, Lt. General von STRACHWITZ reported to American authorities in Syria his willingness to collaborate with the United States government in any anti-Bolshevist cause and that, at the close of World War II, he had refused an offer of collaboration from the Russians. He stated that he expected to go to Argentina and would enlist the services of other scientific colleagues in conjunction with this proposed collaboration.
5. Usually reliable information, dated 15 February 1950, reported that Count von STRACHWITZ was in Argentina and he was believed to have been contacted by Peron and requested to act as an army instructor in that country.

MICROFILMED

MAR 5 1953

SECRET

ABSTRACT	INDEX
15 MAR 1953	